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NOTES FROM THE MEDICAL PRESS

IN CHARGE OF

ELISABETH ROBINSON SCOVIL

EFFECTS ON TEMPERATURE OF HEAT AND COLD.—Experiments reported in the *Lancet* show that heat above 15°C. over one-fourth the surface of the abdomen may cause a change of temperature discernible in the abdominal viscera for about 75 mm deep, laterally for less than 20 mm. The effects of cold are equally definite in an opposite direction.

NEURALGIA PAINS FROM FLATUS.—In a quotation from *Archives des Maladies de l'Appareil Digestif* it is stated that pain at a distance from the intestine may still be due to flatus. The colon at the hepatic or splenic bend is extremely sensitive and distension from flatus causes a train of distant painful sensations which from their position may simulate pleural, liver or other disease particularly sciatica. The absence of fever may be the only clue to exclude disease of the liver. These patients are benefited by treatment to reduce the irritability of the intestines, especially at the head of the colon.

INEFFECTIVE PROTECTION.—*The Journal of the Missouri State Medical Association* suggests that the use of a "germicide" soap that does not kill the germs which might have been removed by thorough cleansing with common soap and water, is futile. There is a danger, too, in the exposure to infection which may come through the removal of protecting mucus by the persistent use of mouth washes and gargles.

THE RUBBER GLOVE.—*The Journal of the American Medical Association* reports Dr. Robert F. Morris as saying that the rubber glove represents one of the best advances of surgery in general. It interferes with the sense of touch in some kinds of work. It is not necessary in abdominal work if the hands are well prepared. It requires a longer incision which is undesirable.

A GIFT TO JAPAN.—The French government has presented Japan with an automobile surgical hospital of 100 beds and with a surgical pavilion fully equipped. Airships for the transport of the wounded are to be added.